

REMARKS

Prior Art cited in IDS

The two most relevant documents cited in the IDS are WO 81/01827 and US 5936398. The following comments are set forth in regard to the prior art and the current claims.

WO 81/01827 discloses a sensor mechanism to detect the passage of documents, preferably currency, and the thickness of the documents. The sensor mechanism operates on vertical movement of the documents. The sensor mechanism has: a pair of arms 16 wherein one of the arms has an extension 35 cooperating with a detector 36; a pair of rollers 20, 22 wherein roller 22 is mounted between the arms 16; and a pivot shaft 28. As the documents pass between rollers 20, 22, movement of roller 22 causes the flag arms 16 to move laterally about pivot shaft 28. The flag arm extension moves laterally between a light source and sensor of the detector 36.

In comparison to present claims 1 and 8, the claim recites that vertical movement of the roller and/or the flag arm cause the detector to send a signal. In the mechanism of WO 81/01827, when the document passes between rollers 20, 22, the roller 22 mounted between arms 16 causes lateral, or horizontal movement of the arm, moving the film strip 34 horizontally in front of the detector. This lateral movement is contrary to the recited claim of vertical movement. It may be argued that the entire apparatus can be rotated to result in vertical movement of the arms 16 and roller 22; however, the claim 1 further recites that the detector is mounted on a support beam parallel to the roller shaft. WO 81/01827 fails to disclose any permissible variation in the location or mounting method for the detector.

US 5936398 discloses a roller system for measuring the length of an article, preferably a tree, passing beneath the roller. Neither the prior art apparatus nor the inventive apparatus disclose a roller system as recited by Applicant. In both disclosed roller systems, a measuring roller 7 is mounted on a shaft 15 between a pair of arms 19. In connection with the roller 7 is a scale 43 that is read by a sensor 45 or 45'. The sensor 45 in the prior art apparatus is mounted directly on one of the arms 19; however, it is disclosed that this creates a failure to read situation when the roller moves vertically (FIG. 4). The sensor 45' in the disclosed apparatus (FIG. 5) is mounted on a bracket 53; bracket 53 is adjacent to one of the

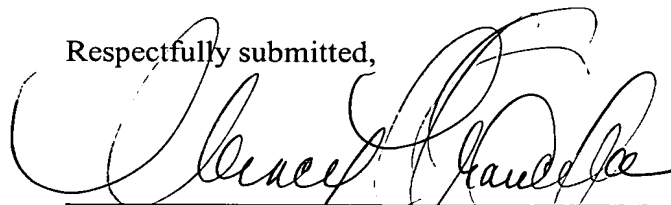
arms 19 and mounted on the end of the shaft 15. By mounting the sensor 45' on bracket 53, the sensor can read the scale 43 regardless of any vertical movement of the roller.

In comparison to present claims 1 and 9, the claims recites that the apparatus has a pair of identical flag arms and vertical movement of the roller and/or the flag arm cause the detector to send a signal. In the prior art apparatus of FIG. 1, vertical movement of the roller and flag arm causes the detector to stop reading, contrary to the recited invention. In the disclosed apparatus of FIG. 5, vertical movement of the flag arm does not cause the detector to send a signal as recited; rotational movement of the roller is what causes the detector to send a signal since the sensor 45' is reading the scale 43 mounted on the end of shaft 15. Claim 1 further recites that the detector is mounted on a support beam parallel to the roller shaft. US 5936398 fails to disclose any permissible variation in the location or mounting method for the detector. US 5936398 fails to disclose the claimed apparatus.

Applicants arguments regarding the outstanding Office Action are set forth in the Response Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed with the RCE request on February 18, 2004, and are considered fully incorporated herein to address the outstanding Office Action and any anticipated affirmation of the previous rejections.

Applicants respectfully await examination on the merits of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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